



## Council Executive Committee

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Location: Virtual (Teams)  
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025  
Time: 3:30 pm CDT / 4:30 pm EDT

**Present:** Ryan Durham, Brent Wiles, Edward Mitchell, Sarah Cripps, Kim Boyd

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Lauren Percy, Lynette Porter, Ashley Edwards

The Committee conducted this meeting by electronic means of communication (Microsoft Teams). Members of the committee reside across the state, which is key to their ability to represent the diversity of Tennessee. The matters considered by the Executive Committee at that meeting required timely action by the body and physical presence by a quorum of the members is not practical within the period of time requiring action. Required public notice was given.

1) **Call to Order**

After confirming there was a quorum, Ryan Durham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm CDT / 4:30 pm EDT

2) **Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and the March Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.**

The committee reviewed the agenda and the minutes from March 4, 2025. Sarah Cripps submitted an edit to item 2 on the agenda, to read March 4, 2025 Minutes.

***Sarah Cripps moved for approval of the agenda as edited, and Edward Mitchell seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Approved.***

***Sarah Cripps moved for approval the minutes as written, and Kim Boyd seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Approved.***

3) **Business Items**

Council Continuation Grants

- The Executive Committee reviewed three requests for continued funding of three projects that remain ongoing. These projects include:
  - Vanderbilt Kennedy Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for the TN Disability Pathfinder project. There is no change in funding requested for this project.
  - United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Middle Tennessee for administratively supporting the Council's Leadership Development Programs, including Partners in Policymaking® and the Scholarship Fund. There is an \$11,000 increase requested for this project, to increase the administrative tasks UCP will take on related to the Scholarship Fund as well as travel cost increases



related to Partners in Policymaking.

- The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Center on Developmental Disabilities for its continued evaluation of the Council's Leadership Development programs. There is a \$1,128 increase requested to accommodate additional travel and to align with the Governor's annual increase in salary and benefits for personnel involved in the project.
- ***There was no discussion. Brent Wiles moved to approve continued funding of the projects above. Sarah Cripps seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Approved.***

## Review of Council Agenda

- Staff reviewed the Council meeting agenda for the April 25, 2025 Council meeting.
- During the upcoming Council meeting, we will recognize three Council members whose terms of service are ending. They have contributed invaluablely to the Council's role in Tennessee:
  - Brent Wiles, Vice Chair, At Large Member
  - Sarah Cripps, Public Policy Committee Chair, Upper Cumberland Development District
  - Chrissy Hood, South Central Development District
  - *Martez Williams, At Large Member, will not be able to attend the meeting; the Council will recognize Martez at the Council Retreat in October.*

## New Member Recruitment

- Council staff are nearing the end of interviews with potential Council members to fill upcoming vacancies. Nominees represent a strong and diverse cohort of self-advocates and family members from across the state.
- The committee discussed Executive Committee succession planning.

## Staff Updates

- The Council is fully staffed and taking deliberate inventory of job plans to take a strategic approach to serving the agency's mission.

## Policy Updates

- Council staff provided an overview of key state and federal policies and potential impact on the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities.

## 4) Other Business

There was no other business.

## 7) Motion to Adjourn

***At 4:07 pm CDT / 5:07 pm EDT Sarah Cripps moved to adjourn the meeting. Brent Wiles seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Approved.***



**Next meeting:** Tuesday, June 3, 11:00 am CST / 12:00 pm EST (Virtual)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ashley Edwards'.

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Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lauren Percy'.

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Approved by: Lauren Percy, Executive Director